

Educating Adjusters for Over Three Decades

By Dave Hall, NCIS

One of the longest running adjuster training schools in the industry's history, the NCIS Crop-Hail Corn School held in Lincoln, Nebraska, has quite easily educated several thousand adjusters since its inception. What began as an annual two-day school in 1976, is now 1 ½ days in length, and held every other year. But that hasn't diminished its popularity or its purpose.

Intended to provide information on the corn plant and cultural practices as well as crop-hail loss adjusting procedures for field corn and popcorn, this year's school had over 100 attendees representing 11 different companies and USDA/RMA. The first full day is composed of classroom instruction and the second half day of in-field, hands-on crop-hail training.

Class room instruction takes place on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus. Attendees are divided into groups and rotate through sessions on corn diseases, corn insects, corn herbicide damage, corn morphology, and corn nutrient deficiency, all provided by university instructors. Classroom instruction also includes sessions on corn hail loss handbook procedures and problem exercises, led by company trainers.

For the in-field training, attendees are divided into small groups (16 in 2011) and rotate through plots of field corn and



Adjusters evaluate plant damage due to hail, which may include stand loss, stalk bruising, ear damage and defoliation in this test plot.



Students had finished the individual plant evaluations for corn stand reduction within the test plot and were receiving instruction on how to properly enter the results on the appraisal worksheet.

Established in 1976

The school is always very well-attended and receives high marks for the quality of training provided.



Students receive instruction on how to determine corn leaf defoliation.



Each individual group's determination for a particular test plot was provided to a plot leader where the results were entered on a large survey sheet.



At the conclusion of the in-field training, the results of each individual group's determinations were summarized and reviewed with all attendees.

popcorn containing simulated hail damage inflicted at various stages of corn plant development. Instruction provided by company trainers.

The school is always very well-attended and receives high marks for the quality of training provided. NCIS would like to thank the NCIS Nebraska Regional/State Committee and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors and staff for their hard work and support in making this school possible over the years.

Photo Note: All pictures are from the July 25-26, 2011 school and all company trainers/plot leaders can be identified by the striking Cornhusker red caps.



Adjusters receive instruction on how to determine the proper stage of growth of the corn plant when the plant was damaged by hail.



University instructor, Bob Wright, talks corn insect damage with the attendees.

NCIS Crop-Hail Corn School